

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ADP-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 ACDA-19 /171 R

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APPROVED BY NEA - JOSEPH J. SIS&

NEA - MR. ATHERTON

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 133757

E.O. 11652 - GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC

SUBJECT: SC DEBATE ON MIDDLE EAST

USUN FOR AMBASSADOR BENNETT FROM SISCO

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR SCALI

1. ON EVE OF RECONVENED SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON MIDDLE EAST DISPUTE, WE HOPE, IN SPIRIT OF PREVIOUS DISCUSSION, TO MINIMIZE ACRIMONY, AVOID CONFRONTATION AND ACHIEVE POSITIVE, OR AT LEAST UNDAMAGING OUTCOME. THIS REGARD, WE BELIEVE YOU WILL FIND IT USEFUL THIS WEEK TO MAKE VERY CLEAR TO SC COLLEAGUES AND TO PARTIES TO DISPUTE THAT THE US:

(A) IS PREPARED TO SUPPORT SIMPLE REAFFIRMATION OF RESOLUTION 242 AND A CALL UPON THE SYG TO VISIT THE AREA;

(B) WILL OPPOSE ANY CHANGE OR ELABORATION OF RESOLUTION 242 AND WILL VOTE AGAINST ANY ATTEMPT TO FORCE A RESOLUTION
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UPSETTING THE DELICATE BALANCE; AND

(C) STRONGLY FAVORS CONSENSUS STATEMENT AS WAY TO MINIMIZE RISK OF UNBALANCING 242.

2. WE RECOGNIZE POSSIBILITY EXISTS EGYPTIANS MAY COME TO THIS MEETING INTENDING TO ASSERT EXTREME POSITIONS AND

DETERMINED TO FORCE US VETO FOR PROPAGANDA EFFECT. IF THIS IS INDEED EGYPTIAN POSITION, WE SHALL STAND FAST, MAKE THE BEST PUBLIC RECORD POSSIBLE AND IF NECESSARY IN THE END VETO. WE SHALL NOT HOWEVER ENGAGE IN A PROCESS OF BARGAINING WHICH COULD ERODE OR COMPROMISE ESSENTIALS.

3. WE BELIEVE HOWEVER THAT UNEQUIVOCABLE ASSERTION OF OUR POSITION AT THIS JUNCTURE MAY MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO AVOID HAVING TO EXERCISE THE VETO LATER. IT IS JUST POSSIBLE THAT THE EGYPTIANS TOO WOULD PREFER TO AVOID AN EMPTY, UNNECESSARY CONFRONTATION IF AT ALL POSSIBLE; SOVIETS MAY ALSO PREFER THIS, WHICH WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE RECENT SUMMIT; THE SYG APPARENTLY HAS AN INTEREST IN SOME APPEARANCE OF A POSITIVE OUTCOME WHICH WOULD GIVE HIM OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY A ROLE; AND WE WOULD HOPE THAT SOME OTHER SC MEMBERS, PARTICULARLY THE UK, WILL BE PREPARED TO PROMOTE THE NECESSARY FLEXIBILITY OF LANGUAGE AND FORM THAT WILL FACILITATE CONSENSUS.

4. AS FOLLOW-UP TO OUR CONVERSATION IN DEPARTMENT, BELOW IS SUGGESTED BRIEF CONSENSUS STATEMENT WHICH US COULD ACCEPT. BELIEVE IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR YOU TO CONSULT ISRAELIS, SYG AND SC MEMBERS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE WITH A VIEW TO MAKING CONTACT WITH ZAYYAT UPON HIS ARRIVAL. WANT TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO A CONSENSUS RATHER THAN A RESOLUTION. MOREOVER, IF YOU CAN GET WALDHEIM TO TAKE THE LEAD ON THE KIND OF DRAFT IN THIS CABLE, IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL.

5. SUGGESTED CONSENSUS STATEMENT: THE COUNCIL REAFFIRMED RESOLUTION 242 OF NOVEMBER 22, 1967, IN ALL ITS PARTS
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AND REQUESTED THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO VISIT THE AREA AND EXPLORE WITH THE PARTIES THE POSSIBILITIES OF MAKING PROGRESS TOWARD ITS IMPLEMENTATION. RUSH

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